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REMARKS

This paper is presented in response to the final official action dated April 29, 2009, wherein: (a) claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9-15, 17-22, and 30-35 were pending; (b) claims 1, 2, 7, 9-13, 15, 17-22, and 30 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Medoff et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,207,729 ("Medoff") in view of Valenti et al. "Bulk Properties of Synthetic Polymer-Inorganic Salt Systems . . .," *J. Phys. Chem.*, vol. 77, no. 3, p. 389-395 (1973) ("Valenti") and Polovina U.S. Patent No. 3,637,571 ("Polovina"); (c) claims 1, 2, 7, 9-13, 15, 17-22, and 30 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Valenti in view of Medoff and Polovina; (d) claims 31-35 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 1 as lacking written description support; (e) claims 31-35 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2 as indefinite; and (f) claims 5 and 14 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 5 and 14 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Brief Summary of the Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of their respective dependent claims 5 and 14. Claims 5 and 14 have been canceled accordingly.

Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate analogous limitations to those of allowable claims 5 and 14 (i.e., addition of the metal salt as a water solution and formation of a metal reaction product).

Claim 31 has been amended to clarify that steps (a), (b), and (c) of the process take place in the first extruder. Namely, the thermoplastic nylon polymer is melted in the first extruder and the metal salt solution is added to the melted thermoplastic nylon polymer in the first extruder prior to extrusion melt-forming the resulting mixture through a die in the first extruder. Thus, steps (a), (b), and (c) of claim 31 represent three sub-steps of a single extrusion process (e.g., steps (a) and (b) are performed upstream relative to step (c) in the first extruder), for example as described in ¶ 57-¶ 58 of the application. Accordingly, claim 31 as a whole recites two extrusion steps: one in the first extruder and one in the second extruder. In view

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of the foregoing, the applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the written description and indefiniteness rejections.

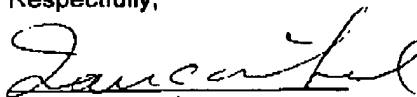
The applicants submit that the foregoing amendments are appropriate for entry under 37 CFR § 1.116(b)(2). Specifically, the amendments place the application in condition for allowance and thus may be entered. MPEP § 714.12. In particular:

- Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter specifically indicated as allowable in the action;
- Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate subject matter analogous to that added to claims 1 and 10; and,
- Claim 31 has been amended for clarity to address the written description and indefiniteness rejections, and claim 31 was not otherwise rejected over prior art (i.e., so no additional search or consideration is required by the amendment).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of the amendments to claims 1, 10, 18, and 31, cancellation of claims 5 and 14, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



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